

30 July 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR
POLICY COORDINATION

SUBJECT: Possible Interest of the Psychological
Strategy Board in Psychological Warfare
Research

1. From July 16 through July 19 a conference and briefing on psychological warfare was conducted at the [] in connection with the preparation and activity of [] for their [] project.

2. Representatives of all departments and agencies of the government engaged in foreign information or PW activities were present and participated. The undersigned attended as a CIA observer and did not make a presentation. Additionally, a number of representatives of government and quasi-official research organizations were present and described research completed, planned or underway in varied detail.

a. The following organizations were represented and participated in the conference and briefing:

Psychological Warfare Division, Department of the Army
Committee on Human Resources, Research and Development
Board, Department of Defense
Human Resources Division, Department of the Air Force
Human Resources Division, (ONR), Department of the Navy
The Rand Corporation
Operations Research Office, Department of the Army
Human Resources Research Institute, Air University,
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

3. From the presentations made, it was clear that much basic research believed to relate to PW has been completed, is underway or planned. Such research was described as investigating basic motivations of humans; means whereby habits and attitudes are established; emergence of beliefs; the essence of credulity; patterns of reaction to oral or written stimuli, etc. It was my impression that virtually all the research organizations are fostering investigation of much the same so-called basic material and that there has been little if any attempt to arrange

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for cooperation or collaboration. It seems to me that a certain degree of cooperation would be valuable. It would enable the research sponsors simultaneously to cover a wider field more economically. It would also provide for more efficient utilization of the university personnel and facilities which are now allied individually with the research sponsors in many cases studying the same general subject matter.

4. During the presentations, I received the impression that much field research-- for example--has been carried on in an attempt to evaluate the efficacy and results of what might be termed tactical PW activity. These field investigations were also carried on individually at different times by different people for the several research and operating organizations. From their descriptions, however, it appeared to me that the investigations were concerned with virtually the same matters. 25X6

5. It is not the opinion or the intention of the undersigned that the subject matter or amount of research should be lessened or curtailed. The purpose of this paper is, however, to suggest the desirability of a central point for coordination and oversight.

6. It is my suggestion that the Psychological Strategy Board consider that psychological warfare research is a field and an activity appropriate to its continuous oversight and coordination. In such capacity the Psychological Strategy Board could:

- a. Consider requirements for research in order to insure that necessary subject matter is not overlooked.
- b. Consider research completed, underway or planned in order to determine whether this is likely to meet the requirements (present and future).
- c. Consider whether there is such duplication in research subjects as to warrant government-wide coordination.
- d. Consider whether the research facilities of the quasi-governmental organizations and of the universities are being effectively utilized.
- e. Consider whether the establishment as major policy of appropriate fields for PW research for the several organizations might insure

(1) conduct of all needed research

(2) elimination of

(2) elimination of duplication

(3) more economic utilization of university and other research facilities

(4) at least partial definition of what appear to be some social scientists' ideas of the metaphysics of psychological warfare

(5) some money saving

(6) that those with highly sensitive research projects could have a single point of contact for the purpose of coordinating and checking prior research in the same subject

(7) that the several groups and organizations shall undertake research only in their own legitimate fields.

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cc: PL/PC

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1 of 6 - Addressee

2 of 6 - PL/PC

3 & 4 of 6 - SAR

5 & 6 of 6 - SD/RE

*sent to Mr. Pinner 2/2/51
for his retention*

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AREA OR COUNTRY(S)	Approved For Release 2002/10/10 : CIA-RDP83-00036R001100170019-1	DOC DATE CLASS	C
HQ	OPC	DDP	Psy Warfare
	Defense	CA	Research
	PSB		Coordination
			Liaison (interagency)

IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT

25X1A Memo from [] [SAR/OPC] for A/ADPC.
 Subject: Possible Interest of the Psychological Strategy Board in Psychological Warfare Research.

ABSTRACT NOTATION REFERENCES

Suggests a central point, i.e. PSB for coordination and oversight of the many government programs of research on human resources and psychological research.

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